



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program

Jane Hedges, Manager

Update for Hanford Advisory Board
June 7, 2012

Site-wide Permit Update

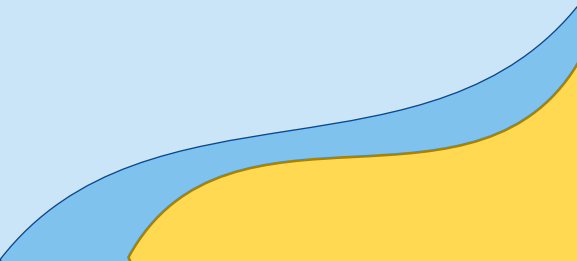
Status:

- Comment period began May 1*.

Public meetings:

- About 40 people attended public workshop May 3 at Ecology office.
- Over 300 people total attended hearings May 15-16 in Seattle & Portland.
- Spokane & Richland hearings held this week.

*Except for Single-Shell Tanks. SST permit is on track to be released for public comment by July 1.

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of a blue wavy line above a yellow area.



River Corridor workshops

June 12 – Seattle

June 13 – Portland

June 14 – Hood River



Other comment periods

- Air Operating Permit renewal (June 4-Aug. 3)
- WTP Permit modification (June 4-July 20)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Nuclear Waste Program

Hanford Air Operating Permit Renewal

Washington's Department of Ecology invites you to comment on the proposed renewal of the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit (AOP). The draft permit is available for your review.

About the Permit

The permit is for the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford site in south-central Washington, north of Richland. Here, a huge cleanup is under way for wastes resulting from making plutonium for the nation's nuclear arsenal.

The state's regulations for control of air emissions limit the duration of a permit to five years. Since Hanford still has air emissions, it still needs a permit. The current permit will expire this year and is up for renewal. During the permit renewal process the old permit remains in effect.

Three agencies administer the Hanford AOP. Ecology regulates the nonradioactive criterion and toxic air emissions. The state's Department of Health regulates all radioactive air emissions. The Benton Clean Air Authority administers outdoor burning



June 2012

Public Comment Period

Nuclear Waste Program

Waste Treatment Plant Design Changes

The [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) is proposing a modification to the *Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit*. The modification is to the *Dangerous Waste Portion for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste* for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP Permit). The proposed changes are located in Part III, Operating Unit 10.

The co-permittees are:

[U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection](#)
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

[Bechtel National, Inc.](#)
2435 Stevens Center Place
Richland, Washington 99354

This proposal is one of many changes to the original WTP Permit. It allows the co-permittees to continue construction while designing other parts of WTP.

The proposed changes include three permit design packages and other documents. The design packages are the Low, Medium, and High Action



June 2012

WHY IT MATTERS

The proposed permit changes affect the [Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant \(WTP\)](#). WTP will immobilize in glass dangerous radioactive and chemical waste from the 177 aging, underground storage tanks at [Hanford](#). This tank waste has polluted groundwater that flows toward and seeps into the Columbia River, so safely storing it is an important goal to help protect people and the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

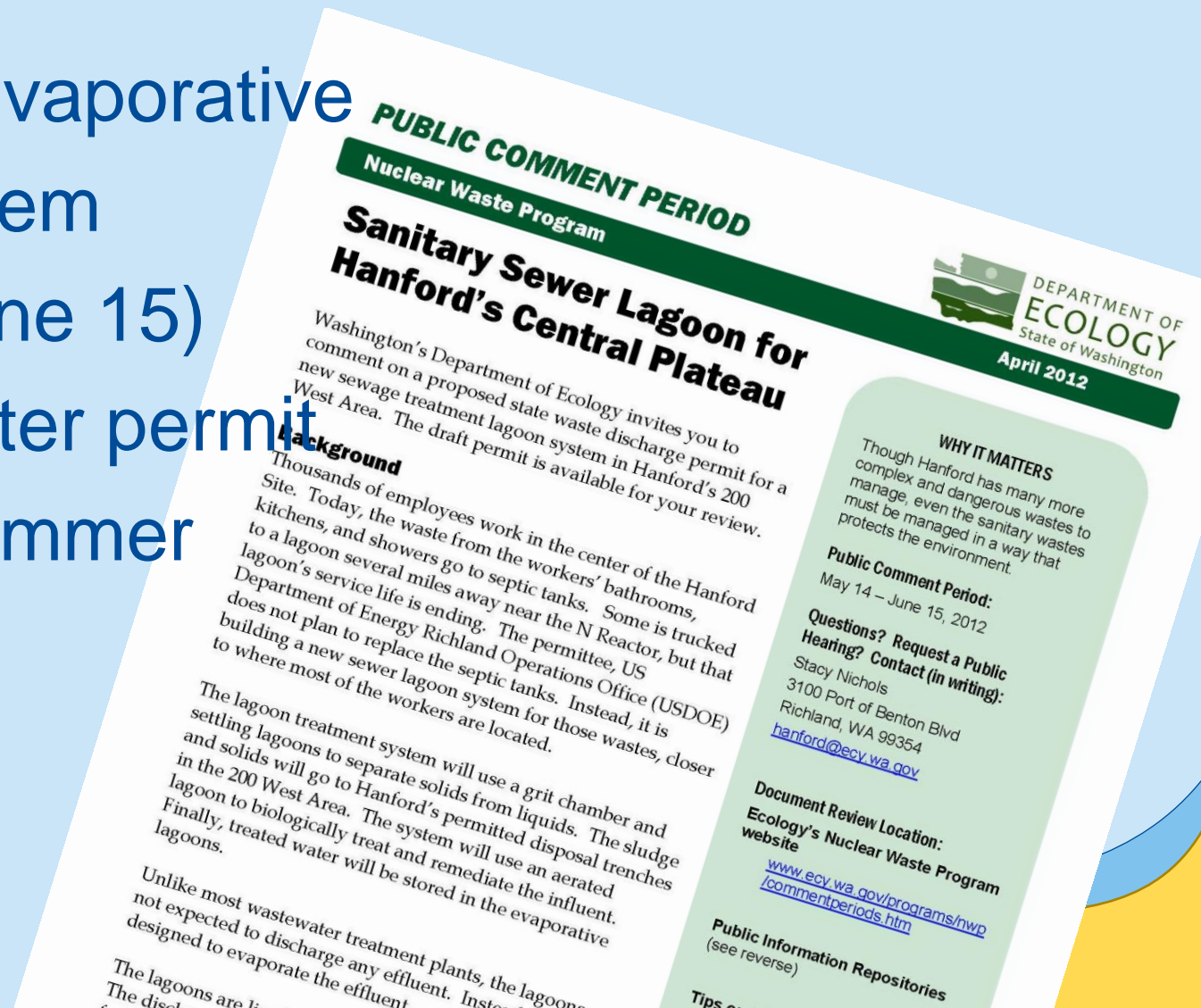
June 4 – July 20, 2012

To Submit Comments

Send comments by e-mail (preferred), U.S. mail, or hand deliver them to:

Other comment periods, cont'd

- 200 West Evaporative Sewer System (May 14-June 15)
- *Another water permit later this summer*



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Nuclear Waste Program

Sanitary Sewer Lagoon for Hanford's Central Plateau

Washington's Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a proposed state waste discharge permit for a new sewage treatment lagoon system in Hanford's 200 West Area. The draft permit is available for your review.

Background
Thousands of employees work in the center of the Hanford Site. Today, the waste from the workers' bathrooms, kitchens, and showers go to septic tanks. Some is trucked to a lagoon several miles away near the N Reactor, but that lagoon's service life is ending. The permittee, US Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (USDOE) does not plan to replace the septic tanks. Instead, it is building a new sewer lagoon system for those wastes, closer to where most of the workers are located.

The lagoon treatment system will use a grit chamber and settling lagoons to separate solids from liquids. The sludge and solids will go to Hanford's permitted disposal trenches in the 200 West Area. The system will use an aerated lagoon to biologically treat and remediate the influent. Finally, treated water will be stored in the evaporative lagoons.

Unlike most wastewater treatment plants, the lagoons are not expected to discharge any effluent. Instead, the lagoons are designed to evaporate the effluent.

The lagoons are located in the 200 West Area. The discharge is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

WHY IT MATTERS
Though Hanford has many more complex and dangerous wastes to manage, even the sanitary wastes must be managed in a way that protects the environment.

Public Comment Period:
May 14 – June 15, 2012

Questions? Request a Public Hearing? Contact (in writing):
Stacy Nichols
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland, WA 99354
hanford@ecy.wa.gov

Document Review Location:
Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program website
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm

Public Information Repositories
(see reverse)

Tips on

Make a Splash!

Hanford facts
are pretty
amazing!



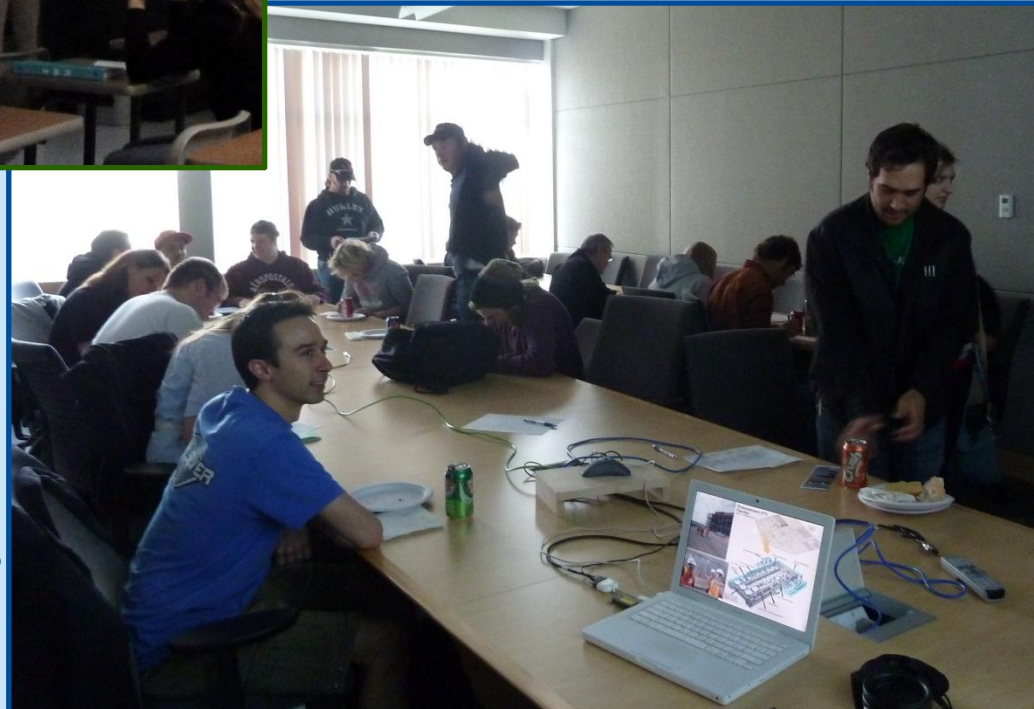
Walla Walla Community
College Water &
Environmental Center

Eastern Washington University



Environmental
science class

Student section of the
American Society of
Mechanical Engineers



Questions?

Nuclear Waste Program
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354

Contact: Dieter Bohrmann (509) 372-7954
Dieter.Bohrmann@ecy.wa.gov

